

T/501/5/6/24

Peoples' News Service

March 21, 1978

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IRAN BLOODBATH

12 arrested for plotting to kill
Shah of Iran and his family

WANTED
BY
THE IRANIAN PEOPLE

Secret police

Seven sentenced to death

Execution

Torture in Iran

NO. 1 MURDERER!!!
DOWN WITH THE SHAH

Protest over Oman: Hooded
Iranian students, who said they
feared identification by the
Shah's secret police, were
among about 500 people who
marched through London yesterday.

have intended
red
with a wire mesh which
heated up to toast its victims

GOVERNMENT "BLOODBATHS"

4 months of terror

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PUBLICATIONS

EVENTS

PNS is registered at the GPO as a newspaper. PNS is published fortnightly and all copy should reach the office by the Thursday before publication. Readers are invited to write in with stories. PNS 146 is scheduled for April 4.

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WORKERS WIN PYRRHIC VICTORY

Nottingham (PNS). Workers on strike at E.H. Architectural Products of Langley Mill, Nottingham, have won something of a pyrrhic victory in their Grunwick - style struggle with the management. (see PNS 136).

The dispute started when non-union members were being given more overtime than union members. When Furniture, Timber and Allied Trades Unions' representative, George Hickling asked to discuss the matter, he was thrown out. In response the 18 union members, of a total workforce of 30, walked out and were subsequently sacked. From July until the end of February, the strikers demanded reinstatement and the recognition of their union. Help came from trade unionists in Liverpool and Birmingham, who refused to accept the company's products, and electricity board workers refused to connect a new factory. Mass pickets were held every fortnight, and although support from Nottingham was strong, it remained localised and began to dwindle as time went on.

In the last week of February the eight remaining strikers decided to call it a day and settled with the firm for a total of £2000, to be shared between them. In an apparent volte-face the firm agreed to recognise the union. But the sting-in-the-tail is that there are now no union members left in the factory. And the union has agreed not to take any further action. Meanwhile five of the strikers are still on the dole, while the £2000 barely covers the amount of money paid out by the strikers by the union for the duration of the strike.

Source: Nottingham Voice; March 1978.

COUNCIL DEMAND PRISON ACCESS

London (PNS). In a four point message to a Government inquiry, into prison administration, Islington Council have called for increased powers for all local authorities with prisons in their boroughs. They want prisoners to have access to local councillors, and want section 2 of the Official Secrets Act, which prevents councillors reporting back on prison conditions, lifted; they also want the right to inspect prisons under the Health and Safety at Work Act, and the Food and Drugs Act and local authorities to have places on prison boards.

In a letter to Joan Lestor, MP, Chairman of the Education, Arts and Home Office Sub-committee (of the House of Commons Expenditure Committee) which is undertaking the inquiry, Councillor George Taylor, Islington's Planning Chairman said, "A number of members of Islington Council have spent a fair amount of time discussing the relevance of local authority to prison administration with representatives of PROP, the Chairperson of the Board of Visitors of the two local prisons, Holloway and Pentonville, and our own professional officers. Regrettably although representatives of the Prison Officers' Association were invited to discuss their views with us they declined the invitation."

In 1976 when Islington first adopted its policy on prisoners' rights, Council leader, Gerry Southgate, said, "These are the first steps towards removing some of the archaic conditions which exist in English prisons today."

Rotham Hambleton Council, which has Wormwood Scrubs in its borough, and Wandsworth with Wandsworth Prison, have voiced support for Islington's four point plan. All previous such moves have been rebuffed by the Home Office which fears the power of local authorities to intervene in the power structure and expose some of the inadequacies of the system. In October 1977 (PNS 135), we reported the case of a black prisoner who, according to PROP had been waiting 14 months in Pentonville prison for deportation having completed his sentence. This is apparently a common occurrence for black prisoners, although white deportees are sent home immediately upon completion of their sentence.

Source: Islington Borough Information Office.

DIRECTORS PAY: THE TRUTH

London (PNS). While we are all having to cope with pay restraint some seem to be able to manage better than others. Company directors, for example. If you are getting £788 a week it does help pay for the necessities of life. And the 15 men we list below are getting at least that amount: Lonhro pay their top man £1,338 per week. Some even had pay rises; Keith Showering got 26.6% more than his £39,442 in 1976, and the top man at Lonhro got 13.9% on top of the £70,400 paid to him in 1976.

<u>Company</u>	<u>Chairman</u>	<u>Pay(£)</u>	<u>Year to</u>
Lonhro	Tiny Rowland*	80,000	30.9.77
Beecham Group	G.J. Wilkins	68,943	31.3.77
Marley	O.A.Aisher	61,000	31.10.77
Laurence Scott	**Highest Paid Director	59,961	31.3.77
Heron Corporation	**Highest Paid Director	50,000	31.3.77
Allied Breweries	Keith Showering	49,938	24.9.77
Tate And Lyle	John Lyle	46,000	30.9.77
Wellcome Foundation	A.J. Sheppard	45,157	27.8.77
Bass Charrington	Derek Palmer	45,089	30.9.77
Lucas Industries	D.F.W. Scott	45,000	31.7.77
Trafalgar House	Nigel Brookes	43,000	30.9.77
BOC International	Sir Leslie Smith	41,800	30.9.77
Armstrong Equipment	J.H. Hooper	41,572	30.6.77
NSS Newsagents	**Highest Paid Director	41,048	2.10.77
Barclays Bank International	A.F. Tuke	41,000	30.9.77

*managing Director

** Companies have to disclose the pay of their chairman and the top paid director - if not the chairman - but do not have to reveal the identity of the highest paid, although this will usually be the managing director.

Source: Labour Research Dept. Fact Service; Vol.40, Issue 10, 11th March 1978.

SHOP STEWARD SACKED FOR "INCITEMENT"

Leeds (PNS). Recently a shop steward was sacked for incitement at St. James Hospital, Leeds, after giving advice to a member of the union. Asked by one of his NUPE members if he had to do a certain job, Tim South told him 'no' and found himself dismissed for inciting an employee to break the terms of his contract and the conditions of his employment, and with undermining management thrown in. Tim returned to the hospital the next day when about 100 of the union's 600 members at the hospital held a meeting about the sacking. He didn't stay long, however. "Management heard I was there so they sent along security men who escorted me off the premises." At the meeting many angry members wanted a strike, but union officials talked them out of it. Instead Tim is to go through the official channels, beginning with the Appeals Committee of the Area Health Authority. Tim South is convinced that he was sacked because the management is trying to "smash the trade union organisation at the hospital". He believes this is the preparatory plan for the next phase of building that is to open next summer. "If they get away with it here, it means they will be able to sack any shop steward who advises the members," he added.

The "advice" (or "incitement") Tim South gave was connected to a long running dispute at the hospital transport department which runs the internal ambulance service between hospitals and also the commercial vehicles. The dispute is over a bonus scheme, and the drivers are insisting in doing only their own jobs. On the fateful day a driver was asked to cover for another and take some patients from Newton Green Hospital to Chapel Allerton X-Ray Department. He said to Tim South "I don't have to do this, do I?" to which Tim replied "No."

Shop Steward sacked for "incitement", contd.

During his five years Tim has been involved in several struggles to improve conditions at the hospital. He has continually campaigned against low staffing levels and sub-contracting work out which has led to lowering of work standards and weaker Union organisation. He was involved in pin-pointing the blame for the Salmonella food poisoning outbreak at the hospital last year at cutbacks in public service which resulted in dirty conditions. He also appeared as a witness for a porter accused of stealing a counterpane and blanket and three brown smocks from the hospital. Given this background it is probably no coincidence that the management have picked on Tim South.

Source: Leeds Other Paper; No.76, 17th-31st March, 1978.

PAPERS EVERYWHERE NEWSLETTER

Conference mailing

PNS is now doing another mailing of documents to do with the Papers Everywhere conference. It includes, mainly, documents on anti-fascism and anti-racism. Subsequent mailings will include documents on the other issues to be covered in the workshops. Contact York Free Press, 73 Walmgate, York (0904-29736) or PNS.

New Irish news service

So far, the Irish Free Press has produced two bulletins. What follows is an introduction to the new news service which appeared in the first edition of the bulletin.

"The Western press is controlled by those who wish to maintain the present political and economic system as it is, not by those seeking to overthrow it. This is particularly true in the case of Northern Ireland. Systematic distortion and suppression of events here have left millions of people confused and ignorant of what is actually happening. This of course suits the British authorities and their allies in the Western capitalist countries who have no wish to see revolution spreading from Belfast. This is especially true of the 26 county government which has the resources and diplomatic contacts to publicise widely the systematic repression that is taking place.

The purpose of the Irish Free Press is then as follows:

- a). To counteract the grip of the British authorities have on the world media,
- b) to provide a continuous supply of information to Irish support groups around the world,
- c) to 'internationalise' the conflict and create greater solidarity among all people fighting against imperialism and repression.

The news service is not identified with any one group. It is available to everyone participating in the anti-imperialist and anti-repression struggle. For this reason it does not offer a complete analysis of the events it reports. For such analysis the reader is referred to the publications of the different groups, each of which has its own perspective on the struggle. A list of these publications will appear in a later issue of the IFP.

At present the news service has no money. We would appreciate contributions of money or materials (stamps, paper, etc.) to help build the service into an efficient tool of the struggle. We also welcome any constructive criticism and feedback."

Longsight News

Contrary to previous reports and impressions that people may have had, Longsight News has not collapsed and has just produced a new issue. Nothing further has happened in the libel case.

* * * * *

FIRE DAMAGE DOUBLE NORMAL

London (PNS). While Nottingham County Council voted £1000 to the armed forces for the magnificent job" they did during the firemen's strike, the figures for fire damage during the strike are now out.

In the three months of the firemen's strike, fire damage costs more than doubled when compared with the same period a year ago. During the strike and after, fire damage costs went unmentioned in the mass media. The figures for January 1978 were £41 m as opposed to £22.4m for the year before. The sum for November, December and January amounted to £175m against £52.3m for the corresponding three-month period the year before. The figures are not adjusted to take account of the fact that the firemen only began their strike in the middle of November (the 14th) and ended it in the middle of January (the 16th).

The Financial Times of March 2 said "The outstanding feature of losses in January was that there were eight fires with damage over £1m in each case, compared with the usual two or three, supporting the contention that once a fire got a hold it did more damage than would have been the case has regular firemen dealt with it". Nottingham County Council seems determined to add to the financial cost of the strike.

Sources: LRD fact service Vol 40, Issue 10, Nottingham Voice, Feb/Mar '78.

BRIGHTON VOICE IN FRACAS WITH LOCAL PRESS

In the recent past Brighton Voice has found itself the victim of attacks from the local right-wing paper, the Brighton and Hove Gazette. Referring to a letter they printed the Gazette said "Talking of rubbish, a left-wing correspondent in today's Dear Sir (letters column) accuses the local newspapers of right-wing bias and hints that they suppress news. It is a familiar left-wing myth, to which left-wingers cling without bothering to produce any evidence. Unlike the publications our correspondent supports, the Gazette is independent. It speaks as it finds. It has no political axe to grind." Below we print Dave Worsfold's (a reader of Brighton Voice and the correspondent referred to) comments in Brighton Voice.

"The story goes back to last December when the Brighton and Hove Gazette published an expose on Brighton Voice with the emotive title "Political filth or lone voice of truth". This was so shocking to some of Brighton's more reactionary citizens that letters began to appear in the Gazette demanding to know why there was not a similar right-wing paper in Brighton.

"It was in response to one of these letters that I wrote to the Gazette as a regular reader of the Voice explaining why I thought Brighton Voice existed and why there was no need for a right-wing version in Brighton. The local press, I claimed, was just a little prejudiced in the way it reported news, and sometimes it did not report it at all. I wouldn't have thought that such a claim was particularly outrageous. I am sure that most readers of the Gazette and Argus are aware that the papers are right-wing, pro-Tory, or however you may wish to describe their opinions. Perhaps what was less acceptable was the suggestion that opinion extended outside the editorial columns and influenced the news content of the papers. Having struck, so it seems, below the belt, I was not to be allowed to go unanswered.

"A myth? Political axes? I quickly looked through the remainder of that edition of the Gazette to see what coverage had been given to the previous day's row between top Tories over new ward boundaries. You guessed. None at all. By contrast there was coverage of a split in the Labour group and by the size of the headline you'd have thought it was of deep political significance for the town, instead of that laughable affair of the 'death-threat', involving the new Tory mayor and 2 Labour councillors.

"Seeing the editorial comment as a challenge to produce evidence to substantiate my claims

Brighton Voice in fracas with local press contd.

In the original letter, I duly replied. I took up this question of the difference in the way in which the splits among Tories and Labour has, or had not, been reported. I also reminded them of the fact that neither of the Brighton papers had even mentioned Bowden's attempts to stifle the Voice by putting pressure on newsagents - an important local story by any standards.

"I was obviously naive to expect the Gazette to publish the evidence it had clearly called for. I did, however, receive a personal letter from the editor Ed. Goring who attempted to answer my points. Since then several letters have passed between us. The gist of Goring's arguments is that he was not here in 1976 when Bowden wrote his letter to the newsagents advising them against the Voice but that he presumes the previous editor did not find it newsworthy. What makes it newsworthy now? Why did the Gazette finally get round to mentioning it in its article on the Voice well over a year after Bowden's letter? Surely Bowden's action in itself showed that the Voice was worthy of notice at the time.

"However, my main bone of contention is over the splits in the Labour and Tory groups. Goring's answer is to say that the Tory row over the boundaries was too late for the Gazette. Firstly, it should be noted that the Gazette does cover many stories a week late. Secondly, it appears that events which happen on Thursday afternoon are only too late for the Gazette when it suits them. A couple of weeks ago the Gazette covered the Sussex Students Union meeting on the student progress committee which took place on a Thursday afternoon and reported on one of Brighton and Hove Albion's new signings which had also happened at that time in the week. According to Goring they should both have been too late for the Friday Gazette, but they both appeared in prominent positions on the front and back pages.

"So, why no news of the Tory squabbles? I have repeatedly asked for the right for this point to be made in the letter columns of the Gazette, and not just privately to Mr. Goring. Why won't he publish my evidence, particularly when he actually asked for it in his editorial? Obviously, the evidence is too convincing to be presented in public."

Source: Brighton Voice Mar/Apr '78.

YORK FASCISTS HARASS IN DISGUISE

York (PNS). At the Quaker Meeting House in York the Holiday Fellowship Club has been meeting. Earlier it was exposed as a front for the National Front. However, a group calling itself the "British Patriots Association" has come forward and claimed that it, rather than the NF, was meeting as the Holiday Fellowship Club.

The British Patriots Association are now threatening to report the Quakers to the Commission for Racial Equality for discrimination unless they are allowed to hold meetings at the Quaker Meeting House. The BPA claims that it is an ethnic association of members of the "indigenous population" of Britain. Therefore banning it from meeting at the Meeting House is racial discrimination.

In fact, the BPA is little more than a cover for the NF, though it also acts as an umbrella organisation for the extremeright in Yorkshire. Its spokesman, Robert Wright, was, until recently, a member of the NF in Leeds and he is still an active sympathiser. Wright helped to give out NF leaflets in the Beckfield bye-election and there is a photograph of him selling National Front News in Leeds.

The BPA is not only threatening the Quakers but is also sending bogus 'restraining orders' to organisations connected with the Anti-Fascist Alliance. The 'restraining orders' are in fact photocopies of Commission for Racial Equality complaints forms. The Senior Field Officer of the Race Relations Board in Leeds said that the "restraining orders had no force in law" and were a "load of old rubbish". He added that "it is a form of blackmail to

to 'send these to people'. Bogus 'restraining orders' have been sent to York Community Bookshop, the Students Union of Ripon and York St. John College, and a number of pubs where groups affiliated to the Anti-fascist Alliance meet regularly. Intimidating phone calls have also been made to the Community bookshop and York Free Press.

After the NF had tried to meet at the Quaker Meeting House under their phoney name, they then decided to meet in a local pub under the title "York City Sporting Club". After being informed of this, the landlord banned the front from his pub and remarked that he "didn't think the sporting club was very sporting".

Source: York Free Press March '78

TEACHERS IN PAY BATTLE

Leeds/London (PNS Correspondent). Teachers all over Britain have been taking action over the last two weeks to support their 12 per cent pay claim. Offered a derisory 9 per cent (which only amounts to 7 per cent since the normal annual increments are included in the pay offer), the National Union of Teachers (NUT) and the National Association of Schoolmasters/Union of Women Teachers (NAS/UNT) have rejected it.

The NUT has called on its members to abstain from all voluntary activities which include: the collection of school dinner money, midday supervision, use of private vehicles on official school business, supervision of school meals. How effective union action has been, however, appears to depend very much on individual members' response to the call. The NUT claim that they can only advise members to take action, since a directive would necessitate holding a national ballot first. The NAS/UNT, however, have directed their members to refuse to supervise school meals or participate in school-organised activities outside lessons.

This piecemeal approach has resulted in a loss of efficacy. In Leeds the local branch of the NUT have decided to act on only two of the four sanctions, school dinners and refusal to collect money. In Eaglesfield Comprehensive School, Greenwich, London, (with 1650 pupils) the school is able to function normally in spite of a 70 per cent response from the teachers. One teacher told PNS that "because of the structure of the school, it only needs a few teachers to be around to maintain order. By their mere presence they assert their authority." In other parts of the country larger schools are finding it more difficult and some have been forced to close at lunchtime. Those with split sites are most seriously affected by the ban on use of cars for official business, since the teachers use them to get from one site to the other between lessons. As for the 'demonstrations' so carefully described in the press, the same teacher told PNS, "It isn't really a question of demonstrations against the strike. Nearly all the kids are unaware of the reasons for the action. They are just taking advantage of the lack of supervision to run riot".

Overworked and underpaid

Meanwhile, 'The Teacher' the organ of the NUT, had this to say about teachers' work. "A teacher's work is never done. The long hours put in after school, at weekends and in holidays are confirmed in a detailed report. It shows that almost 40 per cent of teachers' work is done in what is regarded as their 'own time' - in breaks, lunchtime and outside official school hours. School concerts, reading textbooks, preparing lessons, chats to parents, exam marking, educational visits, writing reports, coping with crises and sudden illnesses are just some of the chores taking up break time, weekends and evenings that are itemised in the report. If teachers received 45-minute lunchbreaks like other workers and four weeks holiday a year, their hours would work out at nearly 43 a week, the report states. Researchers from the National Foundation for Educational Research observed the teachers' day moment by moment at 72 secondary schools in Surrey in 1974. The NFER considers that since then the teachers' workload has increased because of the public spending cuts". (The Teacher, 24/2/78). After all this, most teachers (66 per cent) are on scales one and two - the bottom scales and most of these are women in primary schools. A large

Teachers in pay battle contd.

number of younger teachers only earn between £3000 and £3500 per year.

With schools due to close for Easter next week, the next round in the struggle will follow after the announcement of the arbitration committee's findings in early April. If a satisfactory offer is not made the NUT are threatening to withdraw all lesson cover. The Eaglesfield teacher said, "If this happens there is no way the school will be able to function without sending home large numbers of pupils every day".

Sources: Leeds Other Paper, Labour Research Fact Service.

SPECIAL BRANCH SPY ON STUDENTS

Keele (PNS). Students at Keele University were preparing last week an inquiry into Special Branch spying on the campus. Four students, including an executive member of the Keele National Union of Students will investigate how a list of 22 left-wing students was drawn up for the Special Branch.

The secret police approached the students union head porter Colin Brunt, union secretary Paul Clark and union treasurer Peter Marks for the names of 'politically active' students prior to a visit by Princess Margaret to Keele students' Christmas ball. The three decided that the information would not be handed over. But a shocked NUS executive learned from the Daily Mirror that a list of names had been drawn up including members of left-wing societies like the Labour group, the Communist society and the China Club. It has been drawn up by Brunt and Marks in collaboration with two members of the University Officer Training Corps.

The list was handed over to a university administrator who claims he did not pass on the information to the Special Branch, but it did find its way into the hands of the Daily Mirror, whose journalists approached the NUS leaders. Union secretary Clark said on March 15 that students were concerned about Special Branch activities on the campus.

He pointed out that organisations like the OTC swore an 'oath of loyalty' which committed them to collaborating with the police and Special Branch. Students believed that a state-sponsored intelligence-gathering operation existed in the university. The students have reacted by halting further invites to royalty and barring the collection of information on students for the Press and Special Branch.

The OTC has also been deprived of union facilities and the students have demanded access to files kept by the university on students. "The inquiry is to discover who approached who in this case. Once we know who was involved there can be recommendation as to what action can be taken against them". The union porter Brunt has already been sacked for breaking union policy 'with malice'.

Source: Newsline 16/3/78

IDENTIFICATION CHARADE

Glasgow (PNS). How do you ensure that the suspect is picked out from an identification parade? Easy; you make sure that all the other people on the parade are of a different race. That's what police in Glasgow did when a black fifteen-year old boy was suspected of attempting to rape a medical student. Not surprisingly, he was picked out.

A policewoman in the case, heard at Glasgow Sheriff Court, said that an arrangement with a local restaurant to provide non-whites for ID parades had broken down. She would, she said lamely, have preferred to have had more non-whites on the parade. One of the others was Asian, and another had an afro hair style. The police got their man. Duke was found guilty and sentenced to two years detention.

Source: Release News Mar/May '78

MASS DEMOS AND 'NEW' GOVERNMENT IN ITALY

Italy (PNS Correspondent). The latest report from Italy deals with several mass demonstrations in cities throughout Italy and also the "new" government of Andreotti.

March 8: Fifty thousand women march through the streets of Rome, separately from the PCI (Italian Communist Party) dominated Union of Italian Women (UDI) which stages a rally of a mere 2000 in a square. Thousands more march in other cities. In Genoa police fire pistols and machine guns at women and hold 25 for questioning.

March 11: this was the first anniversary of the murder of Francesco Lorusso, a Lotta Continua militant, by a carabinieri (paramilitary police) in Bologna. The revolutionary mass movement of opposition demonstrated, peacefully, in 4 cities. In Bologna the movement had obtained police authorisation to march past the PCI local headquarters, to protest against the PCI's front-line role in criminalising all political dissent of the left. This authorisation was then withdrawn, police said, owing to PCI threats that if the police did not prevent the march-past, the PCI's own heavy squad would have done so. In the event, 20 to 30,000 militants marched and concluded with a rally near the PCI HQ, without incidents, while the PCI youth federation only managed to assemble 250 in the sports stadium (seating capacity 7000).

Rome: for the first time in many months permission is obtained by the movement to hold a march in Rome's city centre. About 25 to 30,000 participate, and the march concludes peacefully in Piazza San Giovanni.

Milan: the revolutionary left is sharply divided since militants of the MLS, a Marxist-Leninist and Stalinist group, bashed in the skull of a Lotta Continua sympathiser on February 25. Two separate marches, totalling about 7-8000, take place. One includes the MLS, the Fourth International, Avanguardia Operaia, the other - Lotta Continua, Anarchists and the Autonomists. Some participants in the second march sport false Stalin-style moustaches and shout anti-Stalinist slogans.

Turin: is in a state of virtual siege, owing to the mammoth trial of members of the Red Brigades, a clandestine group dedicated to armed struggle against the State. The day before, other members of this group killed a policeman of the anti-terrorist squad. Those on trial refuse all legal defence. This created many difficulties since under Italian law a trial cannot take place with counsel for the defence - lawyers have had to be appointed for them. In spite of the highly-charged atmosphere, with armed police on every street corner, 500 to 1000 young people marched, protesting against the militarisation of the town promoted by the PCI and the DC (Christian Democrats).

"New" government steps in

On the evening of March 11, Signor Andreotti at last presented his "new" government to the country. Actually, it is little more than a cabinet reshuffle, there are only two "new faces" and they are all Christian Democrats. Signor Andreotti himself has been a cabinet minister or prime minister on and off for over twenty years. The novelty is that whereas the last cabinet could count on the abstention of the PCI in parliament, this one will have its active support, as well as that of the Socialists, Social-Democrats and Republicans.

This solution enables the PCI to say to its rank and file "We have made a further decisive step towards state power", while the DC can say to its own die-hard anti-communist backwoodsmen "Nothing has changed". In fact, the PCI support for this government does appear gratuitous. However, PCI senator Armando Cossutta explained: "The contradiction between the DC and public opinion is getting more and more acute, because it is becoming more difficult to show that it is not legitimate to form a government with the communists. Why can they be in the majority but not in the government? That is a question which the DC is going to find more and more difficult to answer."

In effect, the enactment of the historic compromise proper (meaning PCI cabinet posts) has been postponed, although a step further in that direction has been made. However, what Senator Cossutta did not say was that the PCI's own position vis-a-vis its electorate is going to become more and more difficult to justify, as the attack on democratic rights and working-class living standards goes forward.

LABOUR CONFLICTS IN SPAIN INCREASE

Spain (PNS). Angered by the government's failure to control inflation, the inadequacy of measures to strengthen key industries and agriculture and subsequently sharp rise in unemployment, Spanish workers returned to the offensive this month in defence of their interests.

On cues from the PSOE and the PCE (the Spanish Socialist and Communist parties respectively) workers had granted the government a period of grace after the signing of the Pacto de la Moncloa last October. The PSOE and the PCE - whose unions have won a combined total of 70 per cent in shop representative elections - agreed to the pact's wage increase limits in return for a government promise to hold down inflation and fight unemployment. The pact was opposed by the four other union federations, including the anarcho-syndicalist CNT, who stand to the left of the PSOE's UGT and the PCE's Workers Commissions.

Hundreds of wage agreements are now up for renewal. Meanwhile, gas and electricity rates rose by as much as 34 per cent in February, and major industries like SEAT (the giant fiat car factory), steel and mining are in deep trouble and have requested government approval to cut back production (and thus to lower wages) and to reduce personnel. Unreformed Francoist laws designed to pacify the working class guarantee job protection. Under more recent legislation, a company may request government authorisation for production and plant reduction to meet financial difficulties.

Unwilling to sit on the sidelines any longer, 100,000 demonstrated in Asturias on February 26 to demand the nationalisation of the Ensidesa steel company, whose financial troubles affect mining and indirectly most of the Asturian economy. 70,000 workers staged a one-day strike in Seville on February 21 in support of unemployed agricultural workers in the surrounding province. Demonstrating Andalusian farm-workers have repeatedly been attacked by the police.

10,000 demonstrated against the Pacto, the high cost of living and unemployment in a heavily industrialised suburb of Barcelona on February 19 to protest cut-backs at SEAT. 13,000 of the company's workers marched through the centre of Barcelona on February 8; 10,000 marched again on February 22 as part of their "Days of Struggle". On February 7, 40,000 workers representing 80 per cent of the workers total population, went on strike in Navarra in support of salary demands under negotiation in various sectors. Demonstrators were fired on by the police.

Source: Iberian News Service, 1/3/78

WEST BANK ARAB COLLABORATOR SHOT

Jerusalem (PNS). An organised cell on the West Bank in occupied Palestine, known locally as 'the liquidators' last month assassinated four local notable who were notorious for collaborating with the Israeli authorities and enriching themselves through these associations. The authorities have so far been unsuccessful in tracing the killers. Two of the others killed were clerks working for the Military Government. (The Military Government is the name of the authorities who rule in those areas of Israel where the majority of the local population is Arab. Although elections are held periodically, the army is in power under heavily repressive legislation based on the British Emergency Powers Act used to control the region when it was under British occupation).

The most prominent of those assassinated was Abd-el-nur Janho, whose life was typical of those who have recently been victims to this kind of attack. His personal history is an interesting

West Bank Arab collaborator shot contd.

illustration of the kind of lives led by such collaborators and of the reasons for their unpopularity with the Arab people in Israel. Born a Greek Orthodox in Jaffa and raised in East Jerusalem, Janho was known during the period when Jerusalem was under Jordanian jurisdiction as a heroin smuggler and a supplier of arms to the Kurdish rebels. He carried on his businesses without serious interruption though, and, after the six-day war, immediately made contacts with the Israeli Military Government and Israeli commercial people, which stood him in good stead. By that time already a rich man, Janho increased his wealth and influence by opening exclusive agencies in Jerusalem for a number of Israeli firms. As well as this he engaged in a number of suspicious land deals involving the Histadrut (Israeli trade union federation) and others.

In 1972 he was elected to the city council of Ramallah and vigorously opposed the incumbent mayor Karim Kafiya, with the full support of the military authorities ostentatiously displaying his wealth by means of his large villa and huge American car. This, however, did not succeed in winning the confidence of the Arab electors and in 1976, after spending enormous sums of money on the election campaign, was soundly defeated by Karim Kafiya, whose party won all the 10 seats on the council. This bitter defeat led Janho to react strongly. Rumour had it that the Liftawi clan (tribal leaders in Palestine are often able to guarantee how their members will vote) had promised to vote for Janho, and then failed to come across. As a result Janho had one of the Liftawi killed.

A trial was inevitable, so, the military authorities decided that he should be tried in a military court instead of a civilian court as the latter would undoubtedly have convicted him. He was, of course, acquitted. With this, his efforts to build ties between the Arab population and the Israelis, and his endorsement of the Sadat peace initiative, Janho became one of the most hated figures in the city and region. The Palestine Liberation Organisation said that his connections with the Israelis was undoubtedly the cause behind his assassination.

In the Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot it was reported that as a result of the assassination Arab notables had refused to turn up to receptions that were given by the Ministries of Transport and Health. "The military governors in Ramallah and Jericho", the paper said, "were surprised when invited notables refused to come".

Source: Israleft, 28/2/78

BLOODBATH IN IRAN

Iran (PNS/LNS). On March 4th the US State Department issued a 10 page report on Iran. The report, part of an annual assessment of human rights in countries receiving US aid, was ordered by Congress under the 1976 legislation requiring that a nation's performance in the field of human rights should be taken into account before military or economic aid is granted. The document blandly asserts that, "The government has dealt firmly and at times harshly with persons from the Left and Right..." but that "some potentially significant improvements" in the military court system that deals with political offences has been instituted during 1977. It concludes that 2,200 people are in prison for political reasons. This figure is somewhat at variance with figures previously printed in PNS, and in view of recent events in Iran the gross understatement that the report indulges in can only be seen as a means of justifying continued US aid to Iran for strategic and economic reasons.

Over the last four months massive protests at the repressive nature of the Shah's regime and more recently fuelled by President Carter's failure to raise the issue of human rights on a recent visit in January, have seriously undermined the government's support within the country. In an attempt to regain control the Shah has unleashed his repressive apparatus with unprecedented ferocity. The US-trained and equipped secret police, the SAVAK, (created by the CIA) and the Iranian army have been called in to bloodily suppress all protests.

The Qum massacre

During Carter's visit he embraced the Shah as an "important ally" of the US and soft-pedalled on the human rights issue. Angered by Carter's stance, progressive religious leaders called for a demonstration timed to coincide with the passage of 40 days since the mysterious murder of the son of Ayatollah Khomeini, an important radical religious leader who has been in exile in Iraq for 18 years. The event was banned by the Shah because it coincided with the day that the Shah's father seized state power in a coup in 1921. The Shah insisted that a memorial service for Khomeini be cancelled, but religious leaders refused.

At the gathering two important resolutions were passed: release all political prisoners, estimated at around 100,000, and allow Khomeini to return to Iran. When the service, held in the main Mosque in Qum, a city 60 miles south of Teheran, was over, the people inside filed out and were met with a brutal attack by the Iranian police. The mosque was surrounded and SAVAK commandos opened fire on the crowd with machine guns. In the space of 45 minutes 162 people were left dead, 400 wounded and between 800 to 1000 arrested.

On the same day in Mashad (east of Teheran) five more people were killed, 100 wounded and approximately 4000 arrested. Meanwhile, protests in the cities of Shiraz and Ahwaz were met with a similar onslaught of police and SAVAK. In an attempt to play down the massacre the Shah called the demonstrations "an expression of opposition by religious leaders and communist guerillas to government programme to emancipate women and bring about land reform".

The Tabriz massacre

On February 18, 40 days after the Qum massacre, a memorial service was held in Tabriz, the second largest city in Iran, against the Shah's orders. A general strike, to last one day, was called by progressive religious leaders in Iran (and by Khomeini in Iraq) and a funeral march was planned along with demonstrations and the memorial service. Over 20,000 people attended the latter, including some 5000 peasants from the countryside.

As the march began, the police started to attack, killing close to 200 people. But the people came armed this time and began to fire back, killing an estimated 160 policemen. Demoralised by this unexpected resistance, the police refused to fire their weapons anymore after several hours of battle, and the Shah brought in his troops for the first time since the popular uprising of 1963. US-made counter-insurgency helicopters and bombers were flown in while the troops sealed off the city. The Shah appeared on TV, for the first time since 1971, to notify the people he was "still in power" and he then ordered the state-controlled radio station to announce that "the demonstrators are not Iranian, and we do not know how they entered the country without passports". Protests in other Iranian cities on the same day resulted in more deaths and arrests.

To draw attention to these recent atrocities, Iranian students in the US and Europe have gone on unlimited hunger strike. "We are asking the people to condemn the Shah's fascist regime", said one. "Now we see how committed the Shah and President Carter are to human rights ... it is a hoax".

Sources: Liberation News Service. The Times.

TUC COLLABORATES WITH RACIST REGIME

London (PNS). Trade union supporters of the Southern Africa Solidarity Campaign are demanding workplace recognition for black unions in the South African subsidiaries of the firms they work for in Britain. They are angry at TUC complacency over international labour solidarity and were alarmed to hear the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions (ICFTU - the western trade union confederation to which the TUC is affiliated) describe the March week action as "a tremendous success". The Union of Post Office Workers cowered before the

TUC Collaborates with racist regime contd.

National Association for Freedom's injunction preventing them from blacking communications with South Africa and only Portsmouth engineers, working for Power Brakes Ltd., mounted successful action by blacking brake linings bound for South Africa. Other countries saw little more in the way of solidarity.

This complacency was clearer with the TUC delegation's report of its 1973 visit to South Africa, which whitewashed the apartheid system's denial of trade union rights to black workers. The delegation, headed by Vic Feather, had been invited by the white Trade Union Council of South Africa (TUCSA), which is run by Arthur Grobelaar, a well-known friend of the Bureau of State Security (BOSS). Only a few months before the delegation had arrived many subsidiaries of British firms had had to pay out their first real wage increases in 25 years because of the famous Durban strike wave. Our Lord Vic took note of this black anger against starvation wages. Those British subsidiaries who shore up the South African economy, he said, should not be so mean to their black workers in future. Couldn't they see that, "if non-white people are given free democratic rights in industry South Africa could become the workshop, the banker, the merchant and a principle influence for true civilisation and democracy in the whole of Africa."

Even the Rand Daily Mail, Johannesburg's white paper, had to comment: "Had the delegation bent over backwards much further its credibility would have suffered a slipped disc".

Continued black worker militancy in 1974 exposed the TUC collaboration with the white racist TUCSA. So much so that Congress House persuaded fellow ICFTU members that it was time to start buying friends amongst and winning influence over the troublesome black South Africans. A special coordinating committee of Scandinavian, Dutch and German ICFTU members agreed in June 1974 to help the British pour money into two groups of whites who were helping black workers set up trade unions. The Urban Training Project (UTP) and the Institute for Industrial Education (IIE) were able with this aid to help a score of black unions to get off the ground.

But old links and habits die hard. The aid groups were told that their receipt of ICFTU money via the TUC was for "straightforward training - no frills and no politics". Eric Tyacke and Loet Doeukes Dekker were the leading lights of UTP who most faithfully observed this edict. But then they had both formerly worked for the TUCSA's African Affairs Department. After the Soweto uprising in 1976 the frightened white regime banned leading black trade unionists connected with the UTP. Instead of contacting the UTP itself, the TUC International Affairs Department apparently telephoned the TUCSA to ask what was going on.

Two months before, a motion had been rubbed out of the TUC Congress agenda by Hugh Scanlon and Len Murray. The AUEW and the T&GWU motion from the Leyland Longbridge Shop Stewards Committee had condemned the Labour cabinet for not ordering the government-owned British Leyland to recognise the black Metal and Allied Workers Union in its Durban subsidiary.

Back-handed aid

TUC footdragging over support for black militants fits into the pattern of its loyalties. These are clear from its participation in the Ariel Foundation. This organisation was resurrected in 1976 in a series of quiet meetings among leaders of major British trade unions and high level officials of the Foreign Office. "These meetings have established a blueprint for rebuilding the network of foundations and charitable societies and student leaders. These foundations have long been used as a cover for British Intelligence gathering and covert support for foreign movements" (Private Eye, 1976). Among Ariel's payouts was the air fare of 'Skake' Sikhakhane, the exceedingly moderate leader of the black Sweet, Food and Allied Workers Union. He was brought to Britain in 1976 for a three month course for officials. In 1977 "The World" reported that J. Legodi, training officer of UTP, had just returned from an Ariel-funded British jamboree entitled, "Industrial Relations for Overseas Trade Unionists".

Similar moderate black unionists discovered via the TUC-backed UTP have been more directly hosted by the Foreign Office. B.Vose, the 'Labour Attache' at the British Embassy in Pretoria picked out two general secretaries of UTP-aided black unions for a three-week study tour of Britain in 1976. Jan Hlongwane of the Engineering and Allied Workers Union and Clement Montsho of the Transport and Allied Workers Union were no doubt suitably entertained during their stay. Organisational coordination for these and later moves had reportedly taken place during the regular meetings of the little-known Overseas Labour Consultative Committee. The TUC, CBI and Foreign Office send delegates and South Africa is invariably featured on the agenda.

South African recognition of the job the TUC, ICFTU, British Foreign Office and other bodies were doing came in 1977. The UTP and black unions associated with it were about the only black organisations not banned by the South African regime last November after the Biko murder. This is partly because of the regime's fear of taking the rank and file members head-on. But it also showed how effectively those members were controlled by their moderate leaders.

In its 1976 annual report, the UTP had effectively disassociated itself from the Soweto uprising. It had insisted that black union leaders were "first and foremost concerned with the building up of a healthy relationship with the employers, not public disorder". It would be a mistake to dismiss UTP-backed black union leaders as puppets. Yet our solidarity action in the week of action and the coming years is going to have to help the black union members cut free from a hell of a lot of international strings. Through TUC and ICFTU promotion the UTP now receives funds from: Miseror (a German Catholic fund which receives money from the German government), the Dutch Trade Union Foundation for International Development Cooperation (funded primarily from the Dutch government), the Swiss Federation of Christian Trade Unions and the Confederation of Dutch Christian Trade Unions.

Source: Jon Bloch, Freedom Fighter Mar/April '78, Research Associates International, 4a Compton Terrace, London N.1.

TORTURE, EXECUTIONS AND RESISTANCE IN ZAIRE

Brussels (PNS). The following account of events in Zaire was prepared by the 'Comite Zaire' in Belgium, a committee supporting the national liberation efforts of the people of Shaba province and all those who oppose the 13 year old dictatorship of President Mobutu, whose regime seems to get bloodier and bloodier as his hold on the country comes to depend increasingly on massive repression and foreign assistance. Historically, those Western countries most heavily involved in Zaire have been Belgium and France. However, Morocco was co-opted by the French government in the suppression of the Shaba rebellion (as well as the French troops) and the United States government, through various cover organisations, uses Zaire as a base for many operations aimed at securing the US' position in Africa as a whole.

Widespread purges have taken place in Zaire recently as an attempted coup was thwarted by President Mobutu. A group of armed forces officers had planned to strike while Mobutu was on a trip to Europe. However, between the 20th and 25th of February, some 250 officers were arrested in connection with the coup attempt and on March 15, 13 people were executed and 50 sentenced to life imprisonment. Nonetheless, the purges were not confined to this sector and it is widely believed that judges and members of parliament have suffered too. Even Sakombi Inongo, the governor of Kinshasa (the capital) and former political commissioner, is behind bars.

In addition to this it is reported that in the Idiofa-Kikwit-Gungu area (in the Bandundu region) widespread massacres have taken place. Already for several months, the local population has been gripped by a messianic faith called 'Nzambi Mpungu', meaning 'God Almighty'. The gatherings of the faithful attracted the attention of the authorities and on January 7 this year, the military carried out a massive massacre in the village of Mulembe. The two leaders of the sect, Capende and Kasongo, were executed. Repression has

Torture, executions and resistance in Zaire contd.

extended to several other villages in the area after the discovery by the authorities of a list of 4000 names of those involved in the movement including the names of some 300 who were said to be most active in the movement. Paratroops were then stationed in the villages said to have been in the greatest social upheaval. At least 2000 are believed to have been killed by the regime and many tortured, as the anti-Mobutu bias of the religious movement was clear.

Source: Agence Presse Liberation - Belgique, No 379.

ISRAEL TO ACT AS "BRIDGEHEAD" FOR S.AFRICAN GOODS

Jerusalem (PNS). "Israel can propose a good springboard for South African exports into the European Common Market and the USA", so said members of the Israeli delegation, headed by Finance Minister Simha Ehrlich, which is now visiting Johannesburg. Members of the delegation have remarked that in April a new law will be proposed in Israel about foreign investments and re-exporting. The advantage to South Africa will be that the Israeli exports can penetrate Europe duty-free. Similarly, Israel can export 27,000 types of merchandise into the USA, also duty-free.

Mr. Ehrlich proposed to South African businessmen a "very attractive deal", to export South African merchandise to the European Common Market and the USA. The proposal consists of the famous "bridgehead" in Israel, and will be exported into the European Common Market and the USA, enjoying the commercial benefits of the State of Israel. South African goods will thus reach Europe and the USA without political embarrassment and free of tariffs.

In the past Israel has strongly denied that it 'rents' its status as an associate member of the Common Market to other states. But the proposal made by the high-level Israeli delegation to South Africa confirms this.

The industrial products which Israel exports to the Common Market are entering duty-free. The same freedom from duty holds for 27,000 kinds of merchandise, which Israel can export to the USA duty-free. This proposal is only new in its audacity. Secretly, Israel and the Zionist organisation around the world have been a shield to the apartheid regime for a long time, and Israeli 'labels' and faked 'exports' or companies have been promoting the apartheid exports. There is no doubt that this arrangement is 'good' not only for South Africa and Israel, but also for various governments and parties which want really to support the apartheid regime, but who are afraid to do it openly. Therefore, they will jump at the opportunity to use this neat arrangement. The arrangement would be welcomed particularly in Britain (as well as the other European countries) by British investors in South Africa as their profits and dividends are bound to improve with this opening up of a wider market for products of the racist regime.

Source: Israleft 28/2/78.

Periodicals

Authority No 1 (formerly Capitalist Worker). The magazine of the anarcho-vegetarian tendency which attempts to combine radical vegetarianism (the realisation that the fundamental oppression is that of meat eaters over the rest) with anarchism. It demonstrates that radical vegetarianism is not only inherently anarchist but in fact transcends traditional anarchist ideology, and there follows a devastating critique of the contemporary anarchist movement which either belittles or ignores vegetarians and their ideas. Vegetarians must organise autonomously, even eschewing contact with carnivores if necessary. As they say "Autonomy means what it says - piss off".

In the making. No 5, 1978. 60p. A new edition of this very useful comprehensive directory of cooperative projects (arranged by area, except for information projects). Also included are articles on working in collectives, reviews, events, contacts and index.

Books, Pamphlets etc.

Christiana. The Self-help Housing Resource Library are intending to produce a cheap pamphlet about Christiana as soon as possible after Easter but are in need of funds to pay advance costs of printing - £200 needs to be raised. Support can be in two forms: donations, for which people will receive pamphlets to the value of whatever is donated when they are produced, loans, which will be repaid when the pamphlets are sold. The Library also has badges, posters and postcards for sale, plus a book by Jacques Blum, 'The Free Town of Christiana' and any money received from the sale of these will also go towards production costs. Slide shows and speakers can be provided for groups. Contact the Library at Ladbroke House, Highbury Grove, London N.5. Tel 01-607-2789 ext 5027.

The Labour Party and the Politics of Transition by Peter Jenkins. ILP Square One publications. 24 pages. 20p. An essay reprinted from the 1977 'Socialist Register', continuing the debate on the present crisis of the British left and the need for a new socialist formation. The article argues that socialists in the Labour Party have an important part to play, and one which is seriously underestimated by Miliband. The party's hegemony over the organised working class must be recognised and a new labour left should be formed, given the isolation from the political mainstream of the Communist Party, the SWP and the IMG.

In Chile Tanks, In Europe, Unions. Echanges et Mouvement (pamphlet no. 11). 34 pages. 15p. Contains three sections: 1). the situation of unions today, 2). have the unions changed or have they always been that way? (the mythology and reality of union history), 3). what to do about the unions today.

Alternative press reviews

Libertarian Education 24: The war and peace book by Dave Noble, Writers and Readers £1.25; Teaching English: a linguistic approach by John Keen, Methuen £2.40; Progress in Education by Nigel Wright, Croom Helm £2.95; The Science and Politics of IQ by Leon J. Kamin, Penguin 95p.

Science for people 38: Health, the mass media and the National Health Service by G. Rest, J. Dennis and P. Draper, Unit for the study of Health Policy £2.00; Medicine under Capitalism by V. Navarro, Croom Helm £7.95; Your rights in Mental Hospital, Mental Patients Union, 50p, £1.00 (social workers), free to mental patients; Medicines by Peter Parish, Penguin; Russia's political hospitals; the abuse of psychiatry in the Soviet Union by S. Bloch and P. Reddaway, Gollancz. £6.95. Biology as a social weapon by the Ann Arbor Science for the People collective, Burgess (USA), £5.00; The Women's Health Handbook ed. by Nancy MacKeith, Virago. £1.95.

Peace News 2065. Proposal for a new college by Peter Abbs and Graham Carey, Heinemann £1.50. Resource Manual for a living revolution by Ginny Coover et al, New Society Press (USA) £3.00.

MARCH

- Sat 25 London. CND Peace Festival. Music, films, rally, exhibition, theatre, etc. Camden Centre, Ridborough St. (rear of Town Hall, Euston Rd, n.w.1.) noon to 11pm. Tickets from £1.00. Details from CND, 29 St. James St. W.C.1. (01-242-0362).
- Mon 27 - Sat 8 April Manchester. Longsight Community Festival. Carnival, steel band, dancing, old-time music hall, etc. Contact Longsight Public Hall, Stockport Rd., Longsight, Manchester 13.

APRIL

- Sat 1 - Sun 2 Exeter. Campaign Against the Arms Trade national meeting to plan actions against the British Army Equipment Exhibition in June, and other activities for the next three months. Exeter Friends Meeting House, Wynards Lane, Exeter. Further info from CAAT, 5 Caledonian Rd., London N.1. (01-278-1976)
- Sun 2 London. Aubrey, Perry and Campbell Defence benefit concert at Dingwalls, Camden Lock, N.W.5. from 8 pm. With 'Yachts' supported by 'Swift', plus secret raffle, surprise guests, and unlimited secrets. Info from Steve Pinder or Jim Paton, ABC Defence Ctrce, c/o Time Out, 374 Gray's Inn Rd., W.C.1. (01-278-2377 ext 236/242)
- Fri 7 - Sun 9 Nottingham. 1978 Youth Counselling Workshops at University of Nottingham. Organised by National Association of Young Peoples' Counselling and Advisory Services (NAYPCAS) for all levels of experience and all types of involvement in Youth Counselling. Details: Anthony Lawton, Development officer for Youth Counselling Services, National Youth Bureau, 17-23 Albion St., Leicester LE1 6DD Tel: (0533) 538811/6
- Fri 7 - Sun 9 Oxford. Third World Action. Do British activists have any role to play in Third World Liberation? What will the new Third World look like, and what does this mean for Britain? Contact 3W1, 232 Cowley Rd, Oxford. Speakers: Malcolm Caldwell, Jonathan Dimbleby, Mary Dines. Workshops on Argentina, Thailand, Zimbabwe, overseas students' forum, exhibitions and films.
- Sat 15 - Sun 16 Leicester. Libertarian Education Conference. Everyone interested in the magazine and Libertarians interested in education invited. From 10.00 am Sat. Suggested topics include combatting racism in schools, class struggle, silk-screen workshop, Illich and Freire, sexual politics, free schools. At Blackthorn Rooks, 74 Highcross St., Leicester. Info from Libertarian Education, 6 Beaconsfield Rd., Leicester (0533) £52085.
- Sat 15 - Sun 16. York. Papers Everywhere Conference for community/alternative newspapers and magazines. Main Workshops: Fascism, how to deal with it; national communication and coordination. Workshops also on technical details of running papers, how to gather information, the law, sexism in papers and in collectives and more. Contact PNS or York Free Press (73 Walmgate, York 0904-29736) for further details. Contact YFP only for booking forms.
- Sat 29 London. Windscale Demonstration. (postponed from March 19) From Speakers Corner to Trafalgar Square. Organised by Friends of the Earth (London office 9 Poland St. W.C.1.)